

THE North-China Herald AND SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. XVI., No. 457. SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 10, 1876. PRICE, Tls. 12 ½ AN.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England, ...	Dec. 24	Hankow, ...	Feb. 6
San Francisco, ...	Jan. 1	Yokohama, ...	Jan. 29
Hongkong, ...	Feb. 4	Nagasaki, ...	Feb. 5
Tientsin, ...	Jan. 25	Foochow, ...	„ 6

Latest Mail dates in England, from China.
Hongkong, ... Nov. 12 } Received 24th Dec.
Shanghai, ... „ 18 }

BIRTHS.

At the British Consulate, Amoy, on the 23rd January, the wife of GEO. PHILLIPS, Esq., H. B. M. Acting Consul, Amoy, of a daughter.

At U. S. Consulate, Chinkiang, on the 2nd Feb., 1876, the wife of J. C. S. COLBY, Esq., of a daughter.

At Shanghai, on the 4th February, Mrs. J. M. VICKERS, of a son.

At Shanghai, on the 7th February, the wife of R. McQUEEN, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Paris, on the 14th December, PROSPER GIQUEL, of Foochow, to Mdlle. R. de LAVISON. At Christ Church, Ealing, on the 15th Dec., by the Rev. George Godsell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Plaistow, assisted by the Rev. Thomas Wright, B.A., JOHN B. BISHOP, of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, to FANNY WRIGHT, youngest daughter of William Wright, M.A., of Newmarket.

DEATHS.

At Hongkow, on Feb. 4th, ETHEL WINN, infant daughter of Rev. John S. and Emma M. Roberts, aged 1 month 25 days.

At 10, Albany Road, Hongkong, on the 25th instant, MARY MARIA, the beloved wife of the Rev. R. Hayward Kidd, Colonial Chaplain of Hongkong, aged 38 years.

At Marseilles, on the 4th December, EDUARDO JOSE DA SILVA LOUREIRO, Consul-General for Portugal in Japan, aged 41.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per M.B. str. *Tokio Maru*, for Japan—Mrs. Scott and child, Capt. Roper, Mr. H. Flower and servant.

ARRIVED.

Per M. B. str. *Tokio Maru*, from Yokohama—Mrs. Mori, Hon. R. Dawson, Lieut. Bedford, R.N.; 4 Europeans, 12 Chinese & 1 Japanese.

Per str. *Menelaus*, from Hongkong—Mrs. Law; 4 Chinese.

Per str. *Fungshun*, from Chinkiang—The Rev. Mr. Pearson; 100 Chinese.

Per str. *Shanghai*, from Chinkiang—Messrs. Allen, Jerdein and Nathan.

Per M.B. str. *Nevada*—Mr. and Mrs. White and child, Mrs. Wise, Messrs. H. Greery and E. M. Isaacs; one European and five Chinese in Steerage.

Per P. & O. str. *Golconda*, from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. de Pratt, Mrs. Little and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Warren, Messrs. J. C. Coutts, Garrett, Harrison, E. C. Taintor, W. Wheeler, W. Meyerink, G. N. Noel and C. Parker; one European and 49 Chinese deck.

Per str. *Fuyet*, from Hongkong—60 Chinese.

Per str. *Amoy*, from Hongkong—Messrs. Williams and Iremihason; 2 European deck and 11 Chinese.

Per str. *Crocus*—Miss Knight, Miss Goodman, Mrs. Goldspink and child. For Nagasaki—Messrs. Davis, Abraham and Griuter. For Yokohama—Mr. Hayman.

LEAVING.

Per P. & O. mail str. *Gwalior*, for Hongkong—The Hon. R. Dawson, Messrs. R. H. Boyd, D. McAllister, E. E. Endicott, J. P. Barnes.

TERMS FOR ADVERTISING.—Ten Lines and under, *One Tael*; each additional line *One Mace*. One-half of these charges for repetitions. Contracts may be made for 3 months, or longer, payable in advance.

PRICE OF THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE.—Per Annum, Tails 12; Six Months, Tails 6.50; Three Months, 3.50;—all payable in advance. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum. Subscriptions will be considered as renewed, unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

SUBSCRIPTIONS received, and Single Copies sold, by GEORGE STREET, 30 Cornhill.

LONDON (E.C.)

Advertisements will be repeated unless countermanded.

THE publication of the *North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette* commenced at 4.30 P.M.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 1876.

RETROSPECT OF 1875.

General. THE complaint has been constant during the year, of dullness of trade, but as Shanghai has not been peculiar in that respect, the fact does not prepare us for an early verification of Mr. Robert Hart's prediction that our days are numbered, and that Chinkiang is to be the port of the future. China appears to have shared in a depression which is universal, and which is a not unnatural consequence of the excited condition of trade for a few years previously. There are indications that the worst has now been seen, and that, barring the chances of war in Europe, improvement may be looked for during the coming season. When trade is dull, things generally are, of course, dull in Shanghai; and there is, in fact, little of importance to note in the current affairs of the Settlement during the past year. One noteworthy incident has been the development of the Woosung Tramway scheme. A company has been formed to carry out this design, and the road has been made; the material has arrived from England, and the laying of the permanent way begun. The line is not important in itself, but is interesting as the first sample offered to the Chinese, of a mode of carriage which has wrought such marvellous changes in the condition of Europe.

The Telegraph Companies have signalled themselves by a step in defiance of all economical experience, and which has made them very unpopular with their clients. They have introduced various changes in their tariff, which amount to nearly doubling the rate on all short messages, and which will have the natural effect of decreasing telegraphy correspondingly. While everyone else in the world is realising that small profits on a large business pay better than large profits on a small one, they have acted on the reverse principle, and adopted prohibitive charges which must have the effect of lessening business. Rumours of an opposition line naturally arise in

consequence. We hope sincerely that they will be realised; for, apart from the restrictive policy we have referred to, there is much left to be desired in the general conduct of the business.

The Home Press has been awakened by the Yunnan outrage to a greater interest in China than has been shown since the war of 1859; and it is said that its unanimous recognition that full and complete reparation must be had, went far in convincing the Peking Cabinet that it would do wisely to yield to the demands of the British Minister. As our readers are aware, there is an agency in London of the Imperial Maritime Customs, not the least important of whose functions is said to be the transmission by telegraph of political events that have interest for China. The institution might easily work for good or evil; in the present case, if we may credit political gossip, the former resulted. The more weighty questions of Eastern policy that have since arisen nearer home, have naturally eclipsed for a moment the public interest in Yunnan. But the Chinese may take the hint of the despatch of British troops to Bhamo, and of four first rate frigates to Shanghai, to show that the question is not forgotten; and that England fully purposes to exact the reparation she has demanded.

In China, the influence of the native Press has been increasing. It is, of course, as yet, in its veriest infancy; but the indications are clear, of a healthy and growing importance being attached to it. Our own knowledge is, of course, confined chiefly to the *Shunpao*, which, under foreign management, is still conducted with a sufficiently loose rein to let it be an exponent of genuine native thought. We referred, in our Retrospect of 1874, to the Cantonese opposition which had been excited by its defence of the actor Yang Yeh-liu and by its diatribes on the cruelty and injustice to which he was subjected at the instance of the Canton Guild. The *Weipao*, which was started by the Cantonese in their wrath at its utterances, died a natural death in the spring, having had an effect precisely the reverse of that intended by its founders. Instead of injuring the *Shunpao*, the competition increased the circulation of the latter, whereas the *Weipao* proved such a financial sieve, that its owners soon grew tired of the venture. Another native paper, the *I-pao*, was started on its ruins, but was so little respectable in its tone or management that its early demise followed naturally and quickly.

In the meantime, the origin of all the excitement, the actor Yang Yeh-liu, is still kept in a Shanghai prison; although entitled, we believe, to have been released a year ago, under the act of grace at the Emperor's accession. Cantonese influence, however, is said to be still too strong for justice. The girl whose passion for the handsome actor was the commencement of the trouble, is said to have been sold to a yamen underling for Tls. 600, which is some sixty times above the regulation price in cases like hers, where the State is supposed, in the interests of morality, to take women in charge and provide them with husbands. Her mother has been harried into suicide. So the whole incident forms a cheerful picture of Chinese social enlightenment and official purity.

The Polytechnic Institution has progressed under the auspices of its founders. Funds have been freely subscribed; and a site has been bought and a suitable building erected, in the Canton Road. This is nearly completed, and the promises of aid and contributions received speak well for the future of the institution. The Museum recently founded in connection with the Asiatic Society has also prospered greatly. Specimens have been freely contributed by sportsmen, both in Shanghai and at the outports. The Museum is becoming a valuable public institution; and the Asiatic Society deserves well of the public, for undertaking the expense of its maintenance.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is the only new public building of importance that has been opened during the year. But the acquisition of new premises by the Municipality deserves record. For the past nine years, the Council have tenanted buildings in Honan Road, leased by them in 1865, at a time when rents were at their highest point. This lease terminated at the end of 1875, and the well-known Tunsin hong in Hankow Road has been purchased from Messrs. George Barnett & Co. at a very moderate rate, for a future habitation. This will enable a considerable saving in expenditure, and places the Municipal offices in a more central and convenient position. The new premises moreover are sufficiently large to accommodate the whole of the public offices, which will now be collated in one block. It is a sign of the change which is coming over the Settlement, that the old premises in Honan Road are being pulled down, and the ground is to be covered with Chinese shops and hongs.—This growth of Chinese houses within the Settlement has been, of late, a very marked feature. The tendency is more and more to break up the old hong system, and for assistants to be left to choose their own quarters; and the consequence has naturally been a depreciation in the value of the larger houses. A further tendency to migrate into the country, where the number of villa residences is constantly increasing, has still further tended to depreciate the value of foreign house property in the Settlement, and the preferential erection of Chinese houses which give a better return on the money invested, is a natural consequence.

We referred last year to the survival, by the Pacific Mail Co., of the competition which had been started against them on the route between China and America. But they were not left long in enjoyment of their monopoly. A Japanese Company, under the style of the Mitsu Bishi Mail Steamship Company commenced a determined opposition in the Spring, on the Shanghai and Japan line, and succeeded in a few months in persuading the Pacific Mail to retire from the contest, and to sell their local steamers and property to their new rivals. The Mitsu Bishi has now possession of the route, but it is rumoured that certain Japanese themselves purpose establishing shortly a competitive line.—On the American route, also, the Pacific Mail have been subjected to the competition of the Oriental and Occidental Company's steamers, which would become more rapidly favorite, if they would indulge in the speed of which they have proved

themselves capable. The great drawback to the voyage is now the intolerable slowness with which it is performed.

The low rates of fare induced by the competition in the Spring, had the effect of diverting to Japan, the excursionists who usually seek a temporary change from the Shanghai summer, in Chefoo; and hotel proprietors at the latter port suffered accordingly. With the restoration of the passage money to nearer its old scale, they will doubtless recover, this season, much of their customary business.

The business of the Law Courts has been generally light during the year; the only case of importance that has come before them, being the suits arising out of the *Ocean* and *Fusing* collision. These had exceptional interest, both from the circumstances of the case and from the form of action taken. The British steamer *Ocean* and the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Fusing*, came into collision in a fog off the coast of Shantung. The latter sank immediately, and 62 out of 125 persons on board were drowned; among those lost being several petty Mandarins. Proceedings were at once instituted against the *Ocean*, but a curious question arose at the outset, as to the mode in which the action should be brought. Art. XVII of the Tientsin treaty provides that in cases of dispute between Chinese and Foreigners, which cannot be amicably arranged, the Consul "shall request the assistance of the Chinese authorities, that they may together examine into the merits of the case and decide it equitably." But the order in Council of 1865, establishing the Supreme Court of China and Japan, expressly vested "all Her Majesty's jurisdiction civil and criminal exercisable in China," in the Supreme Court exclusively so far as regarded Shanghai, and in the Consular Provincial Courts when beyond the Shanghai Consular district. The Chinese Government ought, of course, to have been notified of the change, which was merely one of form; but this was not done, and the anomaly thus arose, that the treaty prescribed the constitution of a Court from which the Order in Council had withdrawn all power. The Chinese naturally demanded a Consular Court as prescribed by treaty; the Consul replied that power had been withdrawn from him by the Order in Council, and vested in the Judge. Eventually, the owners of the *Fusing* consented to bring their action before the Supreme Court, which decided, after an elaborate trial, that both vessels were to blame, and the damage of both was accordingly ordered to be added together, and one-half to be borne by each. But the case was not yet ended. The Chinese authorities now renewed their claim for a Consular Court, to try a suit for compensation, instituted by the relatives of those lost with the *Fusing*, against the master of the *Ocean*. In this case the Consul consented to sit; and after an elaborate trial in which much curious evidence was gone into regarding the means and income of the persons drowned, judgment was given in favour of the plaintiffs for Tls. 11,000, assessed at the rate of Tls. 300 for each of 24 officials, and Tls. 100 for each of 38 of the passengers and crew, lost with the sunken vessel.

Summary of News.

The French mail of the 17th December, arrived on the 4th inst., by the O. S. N. Co.'s str. *Ménélaus*.

The American mail of the 1st January, arrived on the 8th inst., by the P. M. str. *Nevada*.

The English mail of the 24th December, also arrived on the 8th, by the P. & O. str. *Golconda*.

A mail leaves to-morrow for Europe by the P. & O. str. *Gualior*.

The following telegrams have been received :—

Increase in the next Army Estimates is announced.

The Prince of Wales met with a gorgeous reception at Cashmere. There was a splendid pageant; the body-guard clad in chain mail re-called the Crusades period. The Prince witnessed the fireworks from places specially erected. The landscape was lit up for miles round.

It is stated that Brenier de Montmorand is to be the French Minister in China.

A sixpenny postage between England and India has been decided on.

There has been an accident on the Great Northern Railway. Thirteen persons killed and 21 injured.

The Royalists have made a combined movement against the Carlists. The Spanish Elections have resulted in a large Government majority.

The Prussian Budget shows a deficit of over two millions.

A paper hunt was had on Saturday, starting in the field next Mr. Schmidt's house, and finishing on the Sikaway road, half a mile from the Bubbling Well. The weather was very bad, and the hunt thinly attended.

A second, under more successful circumstances, was run yesterday, starting from the Bubbling Well and finishing near the 2-mile bridge.

The usual fortnightly entertainment of the Temperance Society was given Saturday evening. The heavy downpour of rain interfered with the attendance, and the programme was gone through before an audience of less than a hundred persons.

The Municipal Council notify that, under the new constitution of the General Hospital, four ratepayers of the Settlements North of the Yang-king-pang are to be placed on the governing board of the Hospital, and that their election will take place at the forthcoming ratepayers' meeting. Printed lists of the names of those willing to serve will be circulated; and in the meantime any ratepayer desirous of being a Trustee is invited to send forward his name as early as possible.

The *Courier* calls attention to a cruel punishment which has been inflicted upon a man for selling a piece of land at Woosung, to the Tramway Company. The piece in question was situated on the opposite bank of the Woosung creek, and the owner has since been beaten so cruelly that he died after being carried home, although he could have seen no possible reason why he should not be allowed to sell his land, when his countrymen on the other side of the creek were allowed to part with theirs. But the *Courier* is mistaken in saying the papers of transfer were officially stamped at the Taotai's Yamén. The papers of

transfer have not yet been confirmed. The bill of sale passed between proprietors and buyers; the Tepao, who seems also to have been cruelly squeezed, being party; but the Taotai objects to confirm it with his seal, on the ground that the plot was fraudulently sold; the true reason being, it is reported, that when the Viceroy was down here lately, he ordered that the Tramway should not pass beyond the Woosung creek. The subsequent procedure is essentially Chinese. Instead of frankly stating their difficulty, when it might have been made subject of official argument, the Mandarins set to work to cruelly ill-use the unfortunate countryman who was a perfectly innocent party. We sincerely hope that the case will be strongly taken up.

At the Supreme Court, Friday, before Sir Edmund Hornby, a case, "*R. Mines v. M. C. Adams*," came on for hearing. Plaintiff sued to recover \$300, on the ground of wrongful dismissal from his engagement by the defendant, as captain of the steamer *Dragon*. He alleged that in consequence of the ship being under repair at the time of his engagement at the end of November last, he was to receive half-pay at the rate of \$100 per month until she was ready for sea, and that he was in the meantime to generally supervise certain work to be done on board, by three coolies to be paid by the ship. He understood that his command was to extend only to the period of the return from a voyage to Manila in the barque *Union*, of Capt. Barry, who would supersede him, and he would then become chief mate. The defendant, owner of the *Dragon*, who stated that he engaged plaintiff as ship-keeper only, and to make himself generally useful, became dissatisfied with the time taken to do the work referred to; he also accused the plaintiff of disobedience of orders and general carelessness in the execution of his duty, and in consequence dismissed him without notice, in the middle of January. Plaintiff, therefore, in addition sued for \$200, as one month's full pay as captain, at the Shanghai rate of wages. Defendant paid \$100 into Court, and the Court gave a verdict for plaintiff, for another \$100, with costs.—A report appears elsewhere.

On Sunday week, about ten p.m., a party of constables under Inspector Wilson, made a successful raid upon a den of gamblers, and captured fourteen—all who were in the house at the time. The locality was an alley running out of the Fuhkien Road, called the Shan-foong-loong; and the house having only one entrance, there was not so much chance for escape as in the recent case in the Honan Road. The sentry, who was recognised as one of the Mixed Court lictors (each of whom, it is believed, performed the "duty" nightly, for the purpose of squeezing the proprietor), had stationed himself in another room, instead of being outside, and only became aware of the approach of the enemy when entrance was effected, too late for the whistle he gave to be effective. The usual attempt at stampede was made, some getting under the tables, and clinging desperately to the legs in order to resist

capture; while others made for the door, which, however, was too well guarded, and in a few seconds all were safely secured, and, together with the articles found in the house, on the way to the Police Station. Among the articles taken were copies of the most approved treatises on gambling, account books of gains and losses, cards, some strings of curiously cut Japanese cash, stamped leaden counters, two or three pocket-boxes of prepared opium, a number of Chinese cash fitted close together on an iron rod about seven inches long, and constituting a formidable fighting weapon at close quarters, &c. One of the men was a schoolmaster, who was liberated on bail, and on Monday morning Hsieh, the Mixed Court Magistrate, sent his card to the Police Station, with the intimation that the man would be forthcoming at the proper time. When the case was called on at the Mixed Court, however, the schoolmaster was not to be seen, and in answer to questions as to his whereabouts, the Magistrate quietly said he was excused attending! Such an interference with the due course of justice as this, is anything but encouraging to the Municipal authorities, who are doing their utmost to clear the Settlement of these pests, which are frequently the resort of pilfering houseboys, as well as the haunts of known thieves and receivers of stolen property.

On Saturday night, another meet of gamblers was surprised successfully by the Police. The house was not an ordinary gambling den, being the place of business of a native piece-goods dealer. It is situated in the Shantung road, and the occupier's boys appear to have made it a rendezvous of gamblers unknowingly to him. At the time the Police effected an entrance, upwards of thirty were found engaged in trying to solve the mysteries of chance. Some of those present were houseboys, others tradesmen, and all appeared to be of a respectable class; but it turns out that the house had for some time been a gambling resort. Twenty of the delinquents were captured and taken to the Police Station, and about a dozen escaped. Some of the prisoners were released on bail, but all those taken appeared at the Mixed Court Monday morning. One, recognised as an old gambler, was ordered to be kept in custody, presumably for further enquiry about him; the others were discharged with a warning.

H. B. M. S. *Thalia* returned to Shanghai Thursday afternoon, from her cruise in search of the missing lorcha *Mandarin*. Although she had not been able to discover her whereabouts, enquiries made at various points along the coast were pretty conclusive that she is still afloat and trading, in the hands of natives, between non-treaty ports. Investigations made by Captain Woolcombe and Mr. Forrest, H.B.M.'s Consul at Ningpo, as to the purchase of the cargo by the Soong-mén merchant, and also into the facts of the lorcha's seizure and murder of the captain by the crew, have led to some curious revelations, which will be further pursued; and there now seems little doubt that the whole of the circumstances attending this gross case of piracy and

murder will be laid bare. Among other discoveries, it has, we hear, been ascertained that the Soong-mán man who bought her cargo is a connexion of one of the lowdas of the lorcha. He has been arrested, and will be subjected to enquiry at Ningpo.—By a singular coincidence, Captain Hogg, of the *Chinkiang*, who knows the *Mandarin* well, from her having been alongside his vessel in former days, transshipping cargo, believes he saw her during his recent trip up from Hongkong.

The *Thalia* came up the river on Friday, and took up her usual moorings opposite the Custom House.

We understand that the British ships of war, *Narcissus* (35), *Newcastle* (28), *Topaze* (31), and *Immortalité* (28), have been detached from the Squadron now escorting the Prince of Wales in India, and are to visit Hongkong and Shanghai forthwith. Perhaps the Chinese may herein find a hint. All the vessels are frigates, of about double the tonnage of the *Thalia*, and with five times the armament.

The steamer *Cheops*, now discharging her cargo at the Hongkew Associated Wharves, has landed ten Krupp guns, with their appurtenances, for the Chinese Government.

The steamer *Nevada* has on board 43 packages of Gatling guns and their appurtenances, consigned to "Lew, war-tax collector, Shanghai."

We hear a report that the C. M. S. N. Co. have purchased the steamers *Cheops*, *Lord of the Isles*, and *Galley of Lorne*.—If so, this would go to confirm the report that the C. M. S. N. Co. purpose starting a line shortly to England.

We hear a report of some disturbance having happened on board the C. M. str. *Pautah* on her way up the river. Rumour says the *Pautah*, having succeeded in crossing the shoal at Olyphant's Island, was about returning to lighten the *Fung-shun*, when the Chinese passengers on board objected vehemently to the detention. But the rumour is indistinct, and we do not hear to what extent the "objectionists" went.

A fire occurred at 2 a.m. Saturday morning, on board the C. M. S. N. Co.'s str. *Housang*. The steamer had to be towed away from the wharf and scuttled, to extinguish it. She was raised again on Sunday, at a cost of Tls. 5,000, and will be docked and repaired. The damage to the hull is estimated at Tls. 25,000. Full particulars will be found on another page.

The work of opening up the Seward Road has been commenced, and it is hoped will be continued until completion, if only for the sake of giving a little variety in the way of pleasant drives into the country. It is also intended, we hear, to extend the four cross roads, leading from the river side into the Broadway, to the Seward road, as early as opportunity will permit: so that, taken altogether, the work will, when finished, be a considerable public improvement.

The abundance of woodcock round Shanghai, this year, has been a subject of frequent remark. The *China Mail* notes that six woodcock were shot lately in Hongkong, not far from the town, by a

resident. Such an occurrence is, it believes, unprecedented in the annals of the Colony.

A telegram has been received by the British Packet Agent at Suez, from London, stating that "enormous pressure of business on the night of the twenty-fourth December caused many letters for the Colonies and for China and Japan to be left behind." Any of our readers not receiving expected correspondence by the *Golconda*, will thus understand the cause of delay.

A Notification by the Government of Hongkong, dated 27th January, directs that the following revised Rates of Postage (including those notified on the 5th instant) be published for general information:—

LETTERS.		Cents.
France and Algeria, via Brindisi.....	12 per 1 oz.	
Brazil, Registration Fee	16.	

By French Packet.

Continent of Europe (France excepted) ..	18 per 1 oz.
Ports of China and Japan (To or from) ..	8 per 1 oz.
Aden, Ceylon, India, Pondicherry, Saigon ..	12 per 1 oz.

The above are all the changes hitherto made in the Table of Rates dated the 1st instant, and must be regarded as superseding that Table so far as they apply.

Amongst the passengers by the *Djemnah*, we notice the name of M. Godeaux, Consul-General for France at Shanghai.

We are glad to see M. Brenier de Montmorand named, as likely to be Minister of France at Peking. M. Brenier was somewhat stern on one occasion, in his action towards the members of the French Municipal Council, during his term of office as Consul-General at Shanghai; but that very evidence shows him well qualified for the post of Minister at Peking, where decision of character is especially needed.

Li Han-chang, the head of the Chinese Mission of Enquiry to Yunnan, has been appointed Governor-General of Szechuen.

We are glad to see that, in one case at least, it has been proved an appeal to Peking is not utterly hopeless. We mentioned some time ago the interest taken in this and the neighboring province, in the case of a literate named Yang Nai-wu who had been condemned to death, at HANGCHOW, for murdering the husband of a woman with whom he had been intriguing. It was said to be generally believed that the man was innocent, and great influence was brought to bear—both by the Hangchow officials to sustain their judgment, and by certain censors and literati to have it reversed. Three times the case has been referred back from Peking for re-hearing; and now, at last, the whole case is ordered to be tried before the Board of Punishments, "in the interests of justice and in order to set the public mind at rest." Accused, witnesses and all are to be sent under escort to Peking.

The *Peking Gazette* of the 24th January contains an edict in reply to a memorial from the YUNNAN Commission, requesting the degradation of Li Sieh-tai. The documents in question have reached as too late for insertion in the present issue. We note, however, that the Imperial Commissioner's present report is somewhat less roseate in hue than its predecessor. It is now admitted that Li Sieh-tai actually was concerned in raising the force which repelled Colonel Browne's expedition. He even wrote to the Governor of Yunnan

announcing his intention of stoutly guarding his district; and though the latter at once wrote warning him to prevent any popular outbreak! the order arrived only after the event!! Li Sieh-tai is degraded from his official rank, accordingly, and ordered to Yunnan-foo for trial.

There was a rumour some days ago among the Chinese, of another disturbance in YUNNAN. We did not mention it at the time because we could not trace it to a reliable source. But curiously enough, a correspondent writes from an outpost:—"I have a presentiment that something has occurred in Yunnan, but cannot think what it can be. I have been asked several times whether I had heard anything; and when I answered: No! and rejoined with a similar question, my mandarin friends always answered, neither had they. I am not, however, satisfied that they replied to me as truly as I did to them." It would take a great deal to persuade us that the Peking Government were parties to any attack on the present mission. They have had far too much trouble about the first outrage. But it is just possible the Yunnan Authorities have conspired to get up another mock riot, as a proof of "popular uprising" and "inability to restrain the people" on the first occasion. The rumour, however, reached us in the vaguest possible shape, and we should not have thought it worth mentioning but for the curious coincidence of the letter we have quoted. In the meantime, we do not entertain the least apprehension that any harm will be allowed to come to the members of the mission. The riot, if there has been such a thing, will only be wanted by the officials as confirmatory evidence;—to help themselves out of, and not to imbed themselves farther in, the mire.

We print on another page a proclamation relating to the opening of coal-mines at Kelung, in North FORMOSA, which will be read with interest. The announcement that the coal to be produced, although under the auspices of the Chinese Government, will be put on the market for sale, is especially noteworthy. We learn that the abolition of the mining-duties, announced in this document, has already effected a reduction in the price of coal at Kelung. Sites have been selected in the neighbourhood of that port for the construction of dwellings for the English miners, who are expected to arrive in the course of the present year, under engagements effected by Mr. Tzack.

Alluding to the projected sports at KOBE, in April next, the *Hiogo News* says Yokohama intends to take part both in the Regatta and the Athletic Sports. As Shanghai and Nagasaki are also nearly certain to accept, we may look forward with some confidence to more exciting Spring meetings for these kinds of sports than any Kobe, even in her earlier and palmer days, has yet seen."

A meeting of Land Renters was held at HANKOW on the 18th January. A Report is given elsewhere.

The annual meeting of the HONGKONG Chamber of Commerce was held on the 3rd inst. A précis of proceedings will be found among our outpost news.

Editorial Selections.

EDUCATION OF THE EMPEROR.

THE *Peking Gazette* of the 8th January announces formally to the Chinese World that the young Emperor is about to begin his education. He was three years old when he ascended the throne in 1875, and is now, therefore, five, according to Chinese reckoning. The fourth month is the time designated for him to commence his studies, and the Board of Astronomers are requested to select an auspicious day in that month for their formal commencement. This, according to Chinese custom, is a rather interesting and impressive ceremony; and it may be assumed that, in a country so devoted to literature and ceremonial tradition, the Emperor will conform to the usage of his subjects. The father is supposed to lead his son to the appointed teacher, who kneels before the name or title of some one or other of the ancient sages, and supplicates their blessing upon his pupil; after which, seating himself, he receives the homage and petition of the lad to guide him in his lessons. This at least is the traditional procedure; though it seems to have fallen into desuetude among the people, and to be followed only in families of distinction, where wealth and leisure exist to invest with some formality the entrance of the children on their literary career. Weng Tung-ho and Hia Tung-shan, both mandarins of eminence, are appointed to act as preceptors to the young Emperor; and his father, the Prince of Chuu, is directed to superintend all that is needful in respect to the allotment of his studies. It is curious that the father of Weng Tung-ho, the principal preceptor now appointed, held the same office in regard to the late Emperor Hien-feng, the uncle of the present sovereign.

The occasion is, of course, taken to issue one of those curious edicts which are compiled on the occasion of all important incidents in Imperial life, and are really gems of quaint literature. Those which were called forth by the deaths of Tung-che and his consort, and the accession of the present monarch, will be fresh in the minds of our readers. The present edict is less high-flown as the occasion is less solemn, but still has sentences of the curiously grandiose simplicity for which Chinese compositions of the kind are remarkable. "The Emperor having ascended the throne while still of tender years, it is most needful that his studies be undertaken in due time, and be pursued with continual progress, to the end that the results of education in the course of right may be secured, and the foundation whence good government takes its rise be laid straight." His Majesty's tutors are directed accordingly, on "each morning and evening, to address him with suitable admonition, and devote themselves with thorough attention to the inculcation of learning, in order to prepare

the way to fruitful results." Chinese literature is not referred to specifically; but we may assume that, as a matter of course, this will form the foundation of his studies. Manchu is still affected as the official language of the Court, and official records are, we believe, still kept in it, as well as in Chinese. "The spoken language of the Imperial House, and the literature of the Manchu tongue" (which is not, we imagine, of a very copious or valuable nature) are accordingly pointed out as essential objects of study. But Mongolia, as well as Manchuria, is a dependency of the Empire, and the spoken and written language of the Mongols is also indicated as a necessary accomplishment. In the requirement that he should learn "horsemanship, archery, and the like accomplishments," we have, perhaps, another hint of Tartar tradition; and it would be well, both for the sovereign and the people, if these form a real and practical feature in his education. It is the effeminacy of barem life which saps the foundation of Chinese dynasties. Each Emperor, more hopelessly than his predecessors, seems to fall under its dominion, until the Emperor becomes a mere name in the Government; the impulse of individual energy and the check of individual will are lost, and the throne is at the mercy of the first ambitious reformer who has pluck and ability to seize his opportunity. Another curious feature in the educational régime is the appointment, not altogether unknown in the West, of *hahachutse*, or "whipping boy," who has to suffer vicariously for the faults of the little emperor. Whenever the latter is naughty or inattentive, the *hahachutse* is whipped; the high station of the Emperor rendering it, of course, impossible to outrage his sacred person. This important personage is not honoured with a place in the *Gazette*, though we have no doubt the ingenuity of the Court *littérateur* would succeed in describing even his appointment with a grandiose verbosity that would impose on the reader. The office is scarcely an honorable one, and must depend too much on the character and digestion of the Imperial scholar, to be even enviable. Let us hope that in this instance the *hahachutse's* burden may be light, in which case the new Emperor will have promise in him of being a better man than his cousin or his uncle.

THE TRADE OF BURMAH.

CUSTOMS TRADE REPORTS are not, as a rule, very interesting books to any but those concerned in the trade with which they deal; and on that principle we could hardly expect to find anything worth quoting in the Trade Reports of British Burmah. But that trade is so curiously made up, that we always glance through the book with interest; and in at least one branch of it, that with the Western provinces of China, we have more than a literary interest.

The total value of the trade of British Burmah, by sea and land, during the year 1874-5 was Rupees 146,652,862, or, roughly, about fourteen millions and a half sterling. This shows a decrease of rather over two millions and a half from 1873-4, which is chiefly accounted for by the rice trade. The shipments of rice in 1873-4 were abnormally large, through the famine in Bengal, which also enhanced the price; and there is, of course, a comparative decrease in the export, and in the import of treasure to pay for it, now the extraordinary demand has ceased. A further cause of decrease was the unsettled state of the rice market during the first quarter of 1875, owing to prices in the home markets being low, and a consequent agreement among the merchants at the chief ports not to pay more than a certain price for grain brought to market. This kept back supplies and retarded shipments into the following financial year. Altogether, the falling off in the value of rice alone amounted to £823,750, or £156,735 more than the net decrease under exports; while in every other branch of trade there was a considerable increase.

But, as we said before, it is more the details than the general total of the trade, that attract us; and one important feature is the trade with Upper Burmah, the Shan States, and Western China *via* Bhamo. The aggregate value of this during the year under review was close on three millions sterling. The export into those districts improved mainly in piece goods, rice, salt, and raw silk; betel-nut, cotton twist, yarn, and crockery were showing a slight decrease. In the goods drawn seaward in exchange, there was a general increase, the most marked being in cotton, jaggery (a coarse palm sugar), molasses, petroleum, and cotton and silk piece goods. The latter increased over 60 per cent., in itself an indication of general prosperity, as it implies that the people had more money to spend on expensive articles of dress, much of the silk goods made in Ava being very valuable. In the quantity of stick-lac, on the other hand, we are told there was a falling off—due to the interference of the Burmese officials with the dealings in this article by the Shans, the King having monopolised the trade in it. This up-country trade is carried on chiefly from Rangoon, along the valley of the Irrawaddy, in the vessels of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, who have a fleet of nine steamers and nineteen flats running from Rangoon to all stations on the river as far up as Bhamo; a regular weekly mail service is kept up by their means with Mandalay, and a monthly one with Bhamo, in addition to which extra steamers are run as the requirements of trade necessitate. The cultivators of Burmah seem to be in the happy position of sitting, with some of their produce, between two markets. Raw cotton, for instance, they appear to ship East or West, accordingly as the markets of

Calcutta or Yunnan are more tempting. A demand for Calcutta, in the first four months of the year under review, increased prices $\frac{3}{4}$ d. a pound, and brought down ample supplies. The article was in small request during the ensuing eight months, and large shipments were made from the marts along the Irrawaddy, to Bhamo. At the close of the year, the demand for Europe improved, and the course was again reversed; large supplies again poured down the Irrawaddy, seawards. No less than 3,700 maunds of jade stones, valued at £30,000, were drawn from Upper Burmah during the year, and purchased by Chinese merchants, for export to the Straits. Another curious article of trade is orpiment. This is the yellow sulphide of arsenic, which is found native in China, whence it is brought for shipment to India; 3,578 maunds were exported from Rangoon in 1873-4, there having been a considerable revival of the trade during the last few years, owing it is presumed to the cessation of hostilities in Yunnan. The Burmese seem to develop a taste for European umbrellas as rapidly as the Chinese. £25,000 worth were imported in 1873-4, an increase of £10,000 over the previous year. Another recently developed article of trade is petroleum. The wells at Yen-an-khyoung whence the supplies are drawn, are worked by one Moolla Ibrahim. 188,217 maunds, valued at £80,000, were brought down during the year under review. This product, like precious stones, is also a royal monopoly. Altogether the trade of British Burmah seems to be flourishing, and the list of articles comprised in it, and the peculiar peoples and districts from whence it comes or which it is directed to supply, indicate great capabilities of expansion as communication improves, and the monopolies and interferences of the King can be modified.

RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA.

So far as the information at our disposal enables us to judge, the present rising in Kokand against the Russians seems likely to be the most serious check in their onward march in Central Asia that they have as yet sustained. In the year 1864, the Russians—with so little justification for their acts that Count Gortschakoff found it advisable to issue a circular stating that the Russian frontier was then complete—took possession of Chemkend; an advance followed, notwithstanding the circular referred to, in June 1865, by the capture of the town of Khojend. Since that time, the remainder of the Khanate of Kokand has remained as a tempting bait dangling before the eyes of the Russian commanders in occupation of Khojend. The more so, indeed, that an unfortunate dispute for the Khanship had produced a civil war in the country, and that the two sides were more intent on carrying on their

internecine struggle, than on disputing the advance of their powerful foe. There is no doubt that the Ameer Yakooob Khan cast many a longing look across his present frontiers, into Kokand. He is himself a Kokandese, an inhabitant of Andijan, and of Aryan birth. Strong representations were made to induce him to take part in the contest, but Yakooob Khan knew his northern neighbours too well, and had in his earlier days come too unpleasantly in contact with the Russians, to again take a step which might bring down their vengeance. It was, of course, easy to find a pretext this time for interference. The interests of Russia in the new province of Turkestan were becoming of too important a nature to permit of their being disturbed by a petty warfare on the frontier. This is, of course, a more tangible reason than she has been able to allege for many of her other advances; and possessing, as it does, not only plausibility but a considerable amount of reason, no remonstrance seems to have been offered when, in the latter half of last year, she determined to occupy Kokand. In the natural course of events, it would probably have been better to allow Yakooob Khan, the one able ruler of Central Asia, and who had the advantage of being a native of the Khanate, to occupy the disputed territory; but Russia has not yet advanced to the stage of caring to see another strong power in the field. Her traditions are still of conquest; she has not yet attained to the Augustine stage, when a monarch could in his will deprecate the further advance of the frontiers of his empire. Acting on her instincts of extending her power whenever and wherever the opportunity offered itself, it is, therefore, not surprising that General Kauffmann finally decided on annexing the remaining portion of Kokand, thereby extending the frontier to the Terek pass, and enabling him to keep under surveillance the rising power of Kashgar. It would seem, however, that in taking this step, the Russian commander reckoned without a just judgment of the condition of affairs. It has always been an easy matter to overrun Central Asia. The conquests of Alexander are a proof of this. Towards this result more than one cause has operated, but the principal has been that for ages the predominant rule has been an alien one. Since their first emergence from obscurity, the Turks have ever been a warlike race. They have appeared as conquerors and rulers, but have never been able to settle down to quiet occupation. The story of Turkey is in this respect simply the story of Central Asia. By vigour of mind and strength of arm, the Turks have succeeded in occupying Asia from the frontiers of China to the Hellespont, and have even succeeded in crossing that natural barrier, and becoming the rulers

of the provinces of European Turkey. Great, however, as has been their prowess, they have proved themselves eminently unfit to exercise the arts of peace. They have never been able to gain the confidence of the conquered race, and have never succeeded in establishing a common bond of union. Even in Central Asia, where a common religion would naturally have bound together the conquering and subject races, the Turk remains to the present day an alien. Uzbek and Tadjik are still, after the lapse of centuries, distinct races. Their ideas, their politics, their interests, have little or nothing in common. When Rome was extending her arms eastward, she was undoubtedly looked upon by many of the subject races as a deliverer rather than a conqueror, and the same may be said of Russian advances to-day. But Kokand was apparently less Turkish than the other Khanates, or at all events its government partook more of the popular instincts. Divided as were the Kokandese, they still were not prepared to accept Russia as a deliverer, and accordingly here, for the first time, Russia has come in contact with a distinct national feeling. This feeling is the more dangerous, that there is no knowing how far it has penetrated amongst the subjects of the other Khanates. For their Ameers, the people of Bokhara or Samarcand cared little. They had little to lose, possibly something to gain by a change of masters. But a rising of the people of Kokand means more than the discontent of the Turkish officials and soldiers of the other Khanates. These people are in the main Tadjiks throughout the Khanates. They have been unaccustomed for centuries to act together, or, indeed, to act at all, but national feeling once excited is strong, and it may be that the flame started in Kokand may spread amongst the Tadjik population of the other states. In such a case, the position of Russia will be unenviable; with a hostile population in front and in rear cutting off her communications, it will be difficult to strike a blow, and it must be remembered that notwithstanding all her efforts, the communications between Turkestan and Russia are of a very precarious nature. With the good-will, or at least without the opposition of the settled population, Russia has been more than a match for the nomadic populations on her flanks, but here her interests and those of the people are identical. Should a leader arise having the confidence of the Tadjik peoples, it will be difficult for her to hold her own.

THE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

We have before spoken of the ill-advised and unpopular measures recently adopted by the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies, with regard to the despatch of messages. Additional experience of the working of the new system does

not tend to improve our opinion of it. The first thing that strikes one about the whole affair is the bureaucratic air assumed by the companies, and the calm consideration with which they, from the lofty height of their own position, look down on the feeble yearnings of ordinary folk. Such a system in itself is sure to arouse irritation among ordinary Englishmen, who above all things wince under the slightest exhibition of official superiority, and look for equal respect, whether dealing with their neighbours or with the paid officers of Governments or public bodies. The restrictions upon the spelling of words were sure to excite annoyance, and as they have arisen from the attempt to enforce an unpopular rule, which, with the English language certainly, was not a needed one, the feeling of irritation will be all the stronger. More practical than this, but probably not more effective in exciting the present feeling of ill will between the companies and the public, is the feeling that the latter have been in some measure "done" by the former. They were promised a word tariff, and were more or less given to understand that therein the companies were really offering them a boon. In reality, the contrary has happened, and the expense of messages has practically been increased from 25 per cent. to, in cases of two or three words, as much as double or more; and as the majority of messages are short, the additional expense falls heavily on the local merchants. The effect of the telegraph hitherto has been to reduce the risks of business; but in compensation for this, it has not only reduced possible profits, but has lowered the general scale of charges. The raising of the telegraphic rates leaves matters in this state, that, for the small sum to be gained by a mercantile transaction, it is not worth while to sink the large sums now demanded by the telegraph companies. The charge for transmission has, in fact, become out of all proportion to the value of the transactions to be put through; so that, in place of telegraphy becoming universal, it is gradually dropping out of daily use. It was, doubtless, in order to get the greatest possible revenue out of the public, that, on the first opening of the lines, no message of less than twenty words was acknowledged by the companies. But, curiously enough, the ingenuity of the world was equal to the occasion. By means of well digested codes, a sentence could be condensed into a single word, and, arrived at this stage, packers offered to still further reduce by coding addresses of sender and receiver, and collecting such short messages and packing them in batches of twenty words. The telegraph companies, from the first, looked upon this system as in some measure a trespass on their privileges, and frowned with disapprobation. Had they taken a more rational view, they would have seen

that in reality it largely increased the capacity of their lines. Practically speaking, it rendered telegraphy possible, where otherwise its expense would have been an impracticable bar. By these means, the income of the companies, instead of being diminished, became undeniably increased; while any one acquainted with the practical working of a telegraph office, will understand that, in proportion to the work entailed on the line, the actual receipts were greater. In short messages, the signals which have to be sent along the line at the beginning and conclusion really entail great additional time, and in a cable of definite capacity, the saving of these signals is equivalent to an increase in the capacity of the line for business. We are aware that the capacity of the lines to China has never been trenched upon, but they are in a great measure feeders to those from India homeward, and it is not unlikely that, with good management, and a fair desire to place themselves on good terms with the public, the home lines may find as much work to do as they conveniently can carry through. At all events, there is little doubt that neither side gains from the last petty attempt of the companies to display their contempt of public feeling. They certainly have more work to do, and tax their lines to a greater extent to earn the same income; while the public, by their capricious conduct, are prevented from making use of the lines where otherwise they would find it profitable to telegraph.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY'S MUSEUM.

We are indebted to the Curator of the Museum for a catalogue of the animals and birds which have been donated to and set up in it, since its establishment. We may, we believe, take credit for having been the first to suggest the formation of a Museum in Shanghai, — a suggestion repeated at intervals for several years, before a commencement was made. The list before us is a testimony to the capability of the institution and to the care and zeal bestowed upon its management by the present Curator. Sportsmen have readily responded to the invitation to contribute, and often, we are assured, go out of their way to obtain specimens. But their trouble is little, compared to that of preparing the birds and animals sent in; and the community are not a little indebted to Mr. Pryer for the trouble he has taken in the matter. The specimens brought down by the different China New Year's shooting parties have caused especial activity. A day or two ago, the floor was quite strewn with birds and animals awaiting their turn to be dealt with. Besides various interesting species of Duck, Divers, Hawks, &c., we noticed two specimens of a very large and handsome Kingfisher, both from May-chee, where, indeed, judging from the number of contributions sent in by different people, we imagine that most of the shooting parties must have gone. — A fox, a

porcupine, a very fine eagle sent down from Chinkeang, and many other interesting additions have been made to the collection, and in the centre of the room was a very large wild boar, one we believe of 17 bagged by a shooting party in five days' shooting.

The expenses of the Asiatic Society have been greatly increased by the care of the Museum which has been established in their building, and the Council are very naturally anxious to see a larger number of subscribers on their rolls. The annual subscription for resident members is only ten dollars, and the advantages offered by the Museum and the Library are very cheaply purchased at this rate. The original object of the Society was to afford a medium for the publication of many valuable notes on topics connected with China and the Far East generally, and also to supply a much needed centre for discussion, where those interested in these topics can meet together on common ground. It has very worthily fulfilled its functions in both respects, and may point with some pride to the valuable journals which it has published. But, besides, it now possesses a really valuable Museum and Library. As we have said above, the former already possesses a valuable selection of objects of natural history; and both it and the Library are open to the public daily. The library now contains upwards of two thousand volumes, in addition to about 1,500 volumes of Chinese works of a description seldom to be met with in private libraries. By means of exchanges, it is also placed in possession of the latest publications of learned societies in Europe and elsewhere. The Journal for the past year is, we understand, rapidly approaching completion, and will not be inferior in interest or permanent value to any of its predecessors. In view of these circumstances, as we said before, the Council is anxious to extend the membership of the Society amongst the public of Shanghai and China generally, as well with the desire of increasing the public interest in its proceedings, as of enlarging its finances. The number of members on the rolls on the 31st December last, was one hundred and forty resident and non-resident. But the number ought to be raised to at least 240, a figure which will not only ensure the more effectual carrying out of the objects of the Society, but, it is hoped, will induce a larger attendance of members at its meetings.

Outports.

TIENTSIN.

If one is in search of News, my advice would be, not to come to Tientsin, especially at this season of the year. It is something that always flies away, and it is too cold to manufacture any, and so the supply runs low.

Excepting occasional windy days, when the dust made itself rather conspicuous, we have had delightful weather since I last wrote you. We had a few mild days about two weeks ago, which so rotted the ice as to make it very unsafe. We heard

of several Chinese being drowned as a result of their carelessness in venturing on it. Skating is again lively on the "Rink."

There are two events of interest to report. One is the successful completion and trials of the dredging machine, on which Messrs. Hill, Hammill, and Rogers have been at work for so long. The first trial was on the 30th of December. All parts of the machinery were found to be in fine working order, and gave perfect satisfaction. Just at the last, however, a slight disarrangement of some unimportant part, which was not observed at the time, caused a break, which delayed operations for a couple of days. Other trials followed, when the dredger was subjected to very severe tests of its strength in breaking up and lifting the heavily frozen earth and ice at the water's edge, as well as dipping mud from the bed of the river. On the 9th, the Chinese commenced cutting a road through the ice, so as to drop the machine down to the mouth of Powdermill Creek. Its first work is to be that of deepening the channel of this creek.

The machinery is from Tarbuck Bros., Troy, N. Y., and is very powerful. Every part seems to act with the utmost precision.

Another event of importance, especially to seamen coming to this port, was the successful opening of the Tientsin Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 11th. The exercises consisted of singing, addresses by the Chairman of the evening, and the President of the Temperance Society, Treasurer's report, reading the constitution and bye-laws by the Secretary, and several selected readings.

It is not quite a year since the Society began to solicit subscriptions for this enterprise. The favor with which the project met was greater than was anticipated, the number who declined to aid in the effort to benefit seamen being comparatively few. The objects of the institution and of the Society were forcibly set forth by the Chairman, the Rev. J. Innocent. The necessity for the erection of such a building and for such uses, was shown by the brief historical sketch of temperance work in Tientsin, given by the President, Rev. C. A. Stanley. Work among the seamen, he said, commenced in the autumn of 1870. The London Mission Society gave them the use of a small room, which they had occupied ever since. In this work the Missionaries found an earnest and efficient co-worker in Mr. E. Wheatley, now of Ningpo. The Tientsin Temperance Society was organized March 1st, 1872. Incidents and statistics were given, showing how the work had progressed from year to year, and on the various gunboats; and how, from the small beginning in Tientsin in 1870-71, it had extended over China and Japan, till now in Tientsin alone 500 converts from intemperance to teetotal principles had been made; and that quite 600 seamen have been in the habit of resorting to the small room provided for them during these five years. The necessity of a larger room, and one better adapted to its wants had long been felt, but the way did not seem open sooner to accomplish the desire of the Society.

The building stands just outside the limits of the Foreign Settlement opposite the end of the street, leading from the bund, which separates the British and French Concessions, is visible from the bund, and distant about one-eighth of a mile. It is a two-story building 37 by 25 in the clear, containing a Hall above, capable of seating over 100 persons comfortably; and below, a sailors' room, library, and reading-room. Necessary outbuildings are provided at the back. As a treasurer's statement is to be issued shortly, I will only add that the contractor's bill, as per statement read, for buildings, was Tls. 1,342.00.

NEWCHWANG.

We extract the following from Messrs. Knight & Co.'s Circular of the 1st January:—The business transacted at the last Korean fair was unsatisfactory; the only piece goods sold being 8-lbs. T-Cloths at Tls. 1.80, and 9.12 lbs. Grey Shirtings "Tunsin" Chop at Tls. 3.00—showing a loss in each case to the seller. Other descriptions were quite neglected, and the stock of Heavy Shirtings at the gate is said to be excessive. It also has been ascertained that the loss to Chinese by the autumn failures in Korea will amount to some Tls. 15,000. Heavy Shirtings with us are consequently depressed, but may improve after the Chinese New Year.

Messrs. Bush Brothers write on the 3rd January:—Business is stagnant, and we do not look for a revival till after China New-year. *Malwa*.—The quotation is nominally Tls. 510 @ 520, with slow delivery. *Exports*.—Large quantities of produce daily arrive from the interior, but rates remain unusually high. *Beancake*, Tls. 3.50 per 10 pieces; *Pean*, Tls. 2.78 per 300 catties; *Oil*, Tls. 3.25 per 95 catties—cash, delivery in the spring. We are without letters from the South, since the 15th ult., although the first courier returned from Peking on the 28th ult.

HANKOW.

A meeting of Land Renters in the British Concession at Hankow was held on the 18th January. The Municipal accounts then presented show an increase of Tls. 220 on the revenue, and a balance in hand of Tls. 6,222, of which nearly Tls. 2,500 has been saved during the past year. And the tenor of the discussion which took place at the meeting, went farther to show that Municipal matters are generally smooth. With the exception of a wise resolution that vacancies occurring in the Council should be at once filled, which was passed; and a foolish resolution to enforce the carrying of lanterns at night by the Chinese, which was thrown out—the only really important question raised was as to the efficiency of the Police. H. M. Consul affirmed that the Police knew nothing whatever of their business, and had no idea how to catch a thief—which we can fully believe, as they have not had the advantage of good training. Into the further question raised, about the taxation of Consular property, we cannot venture, with such diametrically opposite opinions before us. H. M. Consul characterises as disgraceful the willingness of the community "to derive all the benefit possible from the Consular bund, while they refuse to have anything to do with the maintenance of it; and Mr. Ramsay retorts that the Government "made" the property at a clear profit on resale of Concession lots, and even make a profit at the present moment in the collection of Chinese Government Land tax. But even this little effort failed apparently to "draw" the meeting. Was there not a balance of Tls. 6,222?—Messrs. Haslam, Smith, Case and Ramsay, were elected Municipal Councillors for the ensuing year.

FOOCHOW.

The *Herald* says a little confusion is reigning in the City just now, in consequence of the delay, that has taken place in filling up the vacancy caused by the recent death of the Futai, or Governor. The post was offered to Ting Jih-chang, the present Imperial Commissioner at the Arsenal, but declined by him, on the ground of old age and ill-health. The real objection is, however, believed to be based on unwillingness to comply with the new regulation by which the Futai is compelled to reside during six months of the year in Formosa.—A fire, on a small scale,

broke out in the City on the eve of the Chinese New Year. It originated, as may be supposed, in the usual native fashion. An old woman burning "Joss" paper before one of her household gods, fell asleep over her devotions, and woke up to find her dwelling in flames. Fortunately, the house was one of a semi-detached series of buildings, so that the fire did not spread very far.—In calling attention to the Customs Notification, regarding the establishment of a new lighthouse on Fisher Island, the *Herald* says, that under the foreign inspecutorate a really serviceable work is being done in this direction—a fact which those who remember the condition of the Coast only ten years ago, will be the first to admit.—The annual meeting of the Foochow Racket Club was held on the 21st ultimo. The past year has been most favourable, and the number of new members clearly shows the increasing popularity of the game. The funds in hand amount to nearly \$400. Some little discussion followed as to the disposal of the balance, but it was finally resolved to carry it forward to the new year's account. The committee elected for the current year, were Messrs. Hales, Sanderson, H. G. Phipps, Dunne, and Robinson.—The annual meeting of the Fives Court was held on the 25th ultimo. The accounts for the past year, showing a credit balance of \$444.69, were duly passed, and it was decided to pay a bonus of \$10 per share from the funds in hand. The following gentlemen were elected to form the committee for 1876:—Messrs. C. D. Smith, Tatham, Nind, Robinson, and Deacon.—The Chinese corvette *Yang Woo*, under command of Capt. Tracey, R.N., is shortly expected from Japan. On her return, preparations will, the *Herald* understands, be made for a more lengthened cruise to Australia, Europe, and America.—The stewards of the Race Club have applied for the use of the Tartar Camp, in connection with the Spring Meeting, but the matter is in abeyance, pending the resumption of official business at the close of the native New Year holidays.—The courier line between Foochow and Amoy was discontinued on the last day of January: but will be re-established on the 1st of May next—on the same basis as before. The couriers have throughout kept their time—45 hours—very accurately, not a single letter having been lost or belated; and have so far done good service to the mercantile community, in the absence of the more rapid telegraphic communication with Amoy, which many desire to see established.—The chair coolies in the employ of one of the foreign houses struck work a few days ago, in consequence of their demand for double wages (sometimes foolishly, we think, paid at this season) not being acceded to. Not satisfied, however, with the simple, and, perhaps, perfectly legitimate proceeding of knocking off work, they entered into a further combination to prevent any other coolies from taking up the vacated posts. For so doing, they were, very properly, proceeded against; and are now, we believe, in the hands of the Authorities. Meanwhile, the hong in question cannot obtain coolies. The *Herald* remarks that the New Year cumshaw system is becoming an intolerable nuisance, and the sooner it is either suppressed altogether, or placed on a more clearly defined footing, the better for the peace of mind of the foreign community.

HONGKONG.

The yearly general meeting of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce was held on the 3rd instant. The report deals with several interesting topics, prominent among which is of course the blockade question. The Committee recognise the interest shown by Lord Carnarvon in the subject, and purpose addressing the Governor

again upon it, in order as much as possible to strengthen his hands. Mr. Keswick added, in a subsequent conversation, that he considered that nothing short of the removal of the Customs stations and cruisers from the approaches to the Colony, could give Hongkong the relief to which she was entitled.—Reference is made to the opening of Tonquin, from which, however, no great trade results seem to be immediately expected.—The Hongkong Government have received a despatch from H. M. Minister, to the effect that Kiung-chow is shortly to be opened. As a place of trade the expectations formed of Kiung-chow are not high. The opening, say, of Pak-hoi, on the mainland, would have been preferred; but, says the report, if the present step is to be taken as the inauguration of a new line of policy towards China, and that for the future the British Government intend to insist on the observance by China of all her Treaty obligations, which she has so notoriously evaded of late years, then the opening of Kiung-chow may be a subject for congratulation.—The Committee have had the question of postal rates under consideration, and they are now in correspondence with the Shanghai Chamber, in order that both bodies may co-operate in making representations to the Postmaster-General, with a view to obtaining some reduction upon the rates now charged upon all correspondence from the various ports of China. The recent changes in the telegraphic charges and regulations were strongly condemned, in a subsequent discussion. The other matters referred to were chiefly of local interest.—The following Committee was elected by ballot:—Messrs André, Kahn, Bellios, Karberg, Nelson, Keswick, Dairymple, Ryrie, and Hoppius. There was a tie between Messrs Jackson and Hoppius, but the former begged to retire in favour of the latter. Mr. Ryrie proposed that Mr. W. Keswick take the chair, and Mr. Kahn the vice-chair. But Mr. Keswick said he was much obliged for the offer, but he had some diffidence in accepting it. He thought that in view of the able way in which Mr. Ryrie had discharged the duties of Chairman, he ought to be asked to continue. Mr. Ryrie hesitated, but said he would leave it to the meeting. This appeared to settle the matter, and on the motion of Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Kahn, Mr. Keswick was elected Vice-Chairman. There is no other news of interest in the papers, except that a French operative troupe arrived by the M. M. steamer *Djemah*, and intend to give their opening performance on Monday, when "La Fille de Madame Angot" will be placed on the boards.

A telegram in the *Daily Press* states that Hongkong won the Cricket Match with Amoy, played at the latter port during Race week, by 48 runs. Hongkong made 63 in the first and 166 in the second innings; Amoy 71 and 10.—The *Audacious* arrived at Singapore on the 14th.—A meeting of the Hongkong Hotel Company was held on the 29th, at which the Report and Accounts (as summarised in the *Herald* last week), were passed. Mr. W. H. Forbes left the Colony on the 27th by the M. M. steamer *Amazon*, the members of the Yacht Club accompanying the steamer in the yachts as far as Long Island. Here, amidst hearty cheers and the firing of crackers, the motto "We wish you a pleasant voyage," was run up by means of signal flags, and was responded to from the steamer: "Thank you."—The *Daily Press* acknowledges the receipt of several large pieces of ice, more than half an inch thick, courteously sent it from Mountain Lodge, where it had formed on the night of the 27th. On the 8th January, 1852, ice was found in Canton one-fourth of an inch in thickness; but it has rarely, if ever, been seen in Hongkong, even at the Peak, of the thickness of

that referred to. The cold during the past two days had been unusually severe, and came on suddenly after rain.

NAGASAKI.

The most important item of news contained in the *Rising Sun* is a detailed account of an attempt to burn down the office of that paper, early on Wednesday morning, the 3rd instant. It was found that a quantity of combustible material had been placed outside the venetians, saturated with kerosine and then set ablaze, the fire quickly burning out one of the venetians and laying hold of the inner doors, while the flames threatened every moment to seize the lattice work of the verandah; and with but a few minutes' delay in extinguishing the fire, all hopes of saving the house would have been at an end. By the exertions of Mr. Lake and Mr. Drewler, the fire was soon put out; the *Sun* is at a loss to know why it should have been subjected to such an attempt at extinction. A reward of \$200 is offered for the discovery of the incendiaries.—The *Dwarf*, British gunboat, has been ordered to proceed to Corea, as is surmised to watch the movements of the Japanese.—The first service was held in the new American Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday, the 30th ult. It was conducted in the native language, and is described as having been very interesting. A short address was delivered on the occasion, by the Rev. Mr. Davidson, and a Japanese gentleman also addressed the congregation.

Smallpox daily lessens, and the Foreign community may be almost said to be free from it.—A boat race between the *Tennessee's* barge and the *Saco's* whale boat came off on the 22nd ult. It was won by the former.—Another race came off subsequently between the *gig of the Tennessee* and that of the *Saco*, resulting, according to the *Cosmopolitan Press*, in the latter giving the Admiral's craft a good square licking. The *Rising Sun* says.—The "Fireflies" gave a ball in the Town Hall on Wednesday night. The day had been exceedingly wet, and the night was sufficient to damp the ardour of the most zealous lovers of dancing. The ladies, however, were not to be debarred from an evening's social enjoyment; and of course the gentlemen cared but little for such a trifling obstacle as a wet night. The ball was a thorough success in every respect, and dancing was kept up with much spirit till the small hours.—Chinese New Year's day was wet, and the Celestials not caring for carrying on demonstrations in the rain, kept themselves at home, or at most made New Year's calls. No end of crackers were indulged in, and feasting was kept up with vigor.—The usual complaints are made of burglaries, but we find no other news of interest.

HIOGO.

The *News* says: last Wednesday was the Chinese New Year's Day, and consequently the Japanese festival "Old Style." Except the letting off a quantity of crackers there was little externally to mark the day, though many Japanese made holiday and there was apparently a good deal of jollification in doors,—out of doors it could hardly be, for a more wretched day is seldom experienced in Kobe. The atmosphere was lazy, rain fell all day, and though only at intervals heavily, there was a cold wind from the North, which made the wet intensely disagreeable. Next morning the hills on the opposite coast and the tops of the higher ones behind the Settlement were white with snow, which has since melted but slowly, a cold Northerly wind continuing to prevail.—Of a piece with the warlike preparations reported from other quarters, is the information that

a large number of leather workers of Osaka are now being employed in the arsenal there on military accoutrements.—There is no other news in the papers; though they contain several paragraphs worth clipping. For instance, a Kioto correspondent of the *Minato Shimbun* notes that in that city, the most prosperous things are the theatres and other public entertainments; the least prosperous one is the business of keeping an archery gallery. The best hotels are those of Maruman, Dairoku, Torashin and Sanokoma. The principal things worthy of note are the bridges, the streets, the schools and the roadside urinals. The things noted by their rarity are robberies, fires, dogs, men with their hair dressed à la old Japan and foreign dressed natives. The things most plentiful are houses to let, notices of bankruptcy and jinrikshas. The whole city is suffering from depression of trade.—A man who found a paper containing 120 yen in some shirts he had bought at a store, returned the money to the storekeeper.—A mother-in-law, aged 50 years, who is fond of liquor and very turbulent in her cups, played ghost the other night in order to frighten her son-in-law into lending her 30 yen. He not only did not make the advance, but caused the noisy lady, when she commenced to suggest suicide and to break things, to be incarcerated in the nearest jail.—Kitakazo, of Hiogo, and Kankio, of Arima, have just received bronze medals from the Austrian Exhibition; the former for an exhibit of vinegar and the latter for one of Arima bamboo-ware. Idsumi, of Nishinomiya, has received a certificate for an exhibition of *saki*. This recognition of their merits will probably stimulate Japanese to enter more fully into competition at these world's gatherings.

YOKOHAMA.

The *Nichi Nichi* relates the arrival at Fusan, in Corea, of the Japanese Envoy and Vice Envoy. They arrived in port at 4 p.m. on the 15th January. The fleet consisted of eight steam-vessels.—A sub-department of the War Office has been formed at Shimomoseki, in order to facilitate the transaction of business in connection with Corea.—It was reported on Wednesday, in Yedo, that an influential member of the Satsuma clan had been arrested for conspiracy against the life of one of the leading members of the Cabinet belonging to the same clan.—The *Mail* says there is a rumour afloat—in which, however, it is disinclined to place any faith—that the Government, finding itself so much embarrassed by the newspaper press, has determined to put a stop to the publication of all journals for the present.—The *Choya Shimbun* alludes to a project for settling the island of Yezo with Chinese immigrants. Okamoto, an official of the Government resident in China, has been applied to by procure immigrants. As yet, however, only about ten Chinese have volunteered. It is understood that the hardy natives of Northern China are chiefly in request.

Yokohama papers contain a number of rumours about Korean affairs, but very little apparently reliable information. The *Hochi Shimbun* of the 20th instant gave a rumour that a telegram had been received stating that the Koreans had attacked the Japanese Settlement at Fuzanku; that a Cabinet Council had been held at the house of His Excellency Sanjo on the 19th instant, and that His Excellency Yamagata, Minister of War, and Nomura would immediately start for Nagasaki or the Corea. But it immediately received an official communication, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, denying that any such attack had been made.—The *Herald* says there is good reason to believe that an attack was made upon one of the steamers of the flotilla which accompanied Kuroda,

by a party of armed Koreans. The intelligence was reported in Yedo on Saturday, but it has been unable to gather more complete particulars.—The *Echo* mentions a rumour that Kuroda has sent for a reinforcement of two battalions of infantry, and that Yamagata has refused to comply with this demand, on the ground that any warlike measures belong to the War Department. Hence is said to have arisen a dispute between that Minister and that of Foreign Affairs.—A meeting of *Daijin* and *Sangi* has been held at the Imperial Palace on Saturday last. It is said that Korean affairs formed the chief subject of discussion.—On the 16th January, a farewell dinner was given at Hamagoten to Mr. L. VERNY, Director of the Arsenal of Yokoska, whose term of office expires shortly, and to Dr. Savatier prior to his return to France on his promotion to the rank of "Médecin Principal" in the French Navy.—The *Herald* mentions a complimentary concert to Miss Claus, under the patronage of Lady Parkes, Madame de Struve, and several other ladies, which was attended by a numerous and enthusiastic audience, and passed off with great éclat. Miss Claus, as on all previous occasions, charmed her listeners, and won hearty and well-merited applause for her playing throughout the evening.—The Hon. Mr. Plunkett, British Secretary of Legation, has received orders to transfer himself to Washington, to succeed Mr. R. G. Watson, who has been appointed elsewhere.

The *Herald* says the snowstorm which commenced at an early hour on the morning of the 27th ult., and which continued for many hours without intermission, is said to be without precedent there. The snow, where it drifted, was over three feet in depth, and where it fell tolerably evenly, from 9 to 15 inches. Communication with the shipping in harbour was rendered extremely difficult, not only on account of the falling snow, but also by the boisterous state of the weather and the roughness of the bay. The celebration of the Chinese New Year was also considerably shorn of its festivity, and the few fire crackers heard conveyed rather a melancholy sound when taken in connection with the blinding snow. Several persons took advantage of the heavy fall to indulge in sleighing. Snow-balling was also much indulged in. Passengers in traps were subjected to a lively fusillade, and generally took the friendly onslaught in good part.—A *jimriksha coolie* was found frozen to death in his vehicle.—The delay in the arrival of the *City of Peking* was caused by an accident to one of her valves. She originally sailed from San Francisco at noon on the 4th January, but on the next day the accident happened, and as the disabled valve was situated some distance under water, she was obliged to return to port for repairs. These were speedily accomplished, and she sailed again on the 7th instant, and made a very good voyage across, considering the season.—The *Gazette* says that at 4.10 on the 29th ultimo, a very severe shock of earthquake took place.—Commandant Deschamps, of the French Military Mission, whose contract has expired, has been honored with a farewell interview with H.M. the Mikado, who has conferred the decoration of the newly created Japanese order, upon him.—The annual general meeting of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce was held at their rooms on the 28th ultimo. Eighteen members were present. The report of the Committee for 1875, together with the accounts, was read and accepted by the meeting. The officers for the present year were elected, and other business was discussed. In answer to Mr. Wilkin, the Chairman said that the sale of circulars showed a falling off of some 5,400.—The *Gazette's* Nippon notes say that the sword-makers of Tokio are very busy.—A line of telegraph is to be constructed between the

Imperial palace and the central police station.—Mr. Black, editor of the *Bankoku-Shinbun*, is said to have complained to Sir Harry Parkes against the Japanese Government.—A new building, covering 10,000 *tsubo*, will be shortly constructed in Uyeno-Sannai, for a public exhibition.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

Jan. 8th.—(1) The benignant Mandate of Their Majesties the Empresses Ts'ze An T'wan Yü K'ang K'ing and Ts'ze An T'wan Yü K'ang I, has been reverently received, as follows:—The Emperor having ascended the Throne whilst still of tender years, it is most needful that His studies be undertaken in due time, and be pursued with continual progress to the end, that the results of education in the course of right may be secured, and the foundations whence good government takes its rise be laid straight. Let the Imperial Board of Astronomers select a day of fortunate augury in the fourth moon of the coming year, on which His Majesty shall commence his course of studies in the Yü K'ing apartments of the Palace. Let the Vice-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat and acting Vice-President Weng T'ung-ho and the Vice-President Hia T'ung-shan act as preceptors to His Majesty. Let them, on each morning and evening, address him with suitable admonitions, and devote themselves with thorough attention to the inculcation of learning, in order to prepare the way to fruitful results. Let the Prince of Ch'un superintend all that is needful in respect of the allotment of His Majesty's studies and arrangements in his apartments. The spoken language of the Imperial House and the literature of the Manchu tongue being fundamental institutions of Our Dynasty, His Majesty must pursue the study of these, and must likewise be practised in the spoken and written language of the Mongols, in horsemanship, archery, and the like accomplishments. Let the Ministers of the Presence in due time give the necessary instruction; and let the Prince of Ch'un in like manner superintend the needful arrangements. (Note. The Prince of Ch'un, as is well known, is the young Emperor's father. Weng T'ung-ho, the principal preceptor now appointed, is a literary mandarin of eminence, and now succeeds to the office which was held by his father in respect of the Emperor Hien Feng. Hia T'ung-shan is one of the junior Vice-Presidents of the Board of War. The next appointment to be made (though not gazetted) will probably be that of the child who, according to the Manchu Imperial custom, shares his Majesty's studies under the name of *ho'achutse*, in the capacity of a *souffredouleur* or "whipping-boy." Whenever the Son of Heaven is naughty or inattentive, the *ho'achutse* is beaten or disgraced).

(2) A Decree. Wen-siang has memorialized stating that his complaint is still not abated, and requesting to be relieved of his weighty functions. Let him be granted two months' congé, to attend in tranquility to the care of his health. He need not vacate his position as a member of the Grand Council.

(3) The Superintendents of the three Imperial Manufactories, viz., Silk-k'wei at Nanking, Wen-che at Soochow, and Wen-che at Hangchow, jointly memorialize representing the impossibility, under existing circumstances, of complying with the injunctions laid upon them, at the instance of the Board of Revenue, to adhere to the old regulation system of prices for materials and wages. Times have changed, and everything has risen in price; among the causes assigned for this being insufficient production and the large foreign export of raw silk. The current year is one

of *ta yün* 大運 or supply on a large scale, among the requirements being lute-string for the pages and outer coverings of the Manuscript Record of the late reign now in course of preparation, embroideries for the insignia of the chief Imperial concubine Tun I Hwan. Kwei-fei, (See *Gazette* of January 25th, 1875), chair coverings for the hall containing the tablets of Their late deceased Majesties, coverings for the catafalques on the funeral procession and hangings for the temples at which oblations were to be presented; beside materials for the scrolls upon which patents of distinction according to the Act of Grace are to be engrossed.—Rescript sanctioning, as a provisional measure, the payment of current market prices for materials and wages for the supplies due for the current year.

Jan. 9th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the supervising Censors of the south division of the city, who have reported a case of barbarous flogging inflicted by certain thief-takers attached to the Gendarmerie. The Board of Punishments is commanded to institute stringent action in the matter.

(2) A decree of the two Empresses negating memorials in which Weng T'ung-ho and Hia T'ung-shan, the two high functionaries appointed yesterday to act as preceptors to His Majesty, entreat that they may be relieved of so responsible an office.

Jan. 10th.—(Court Circular). The Prince of Ch'un returned thanks for being placed in superintendence of His Majesty's studies. Weng T'ung-ho and Hia T'ung-shan returned thanks for their appointment as Imperial preceptors. The *beilth* Kw'ang and his colleagues (Ministers of the Presence) returned thanks for their appointment as instructors of His Majesty (see Decree of 8th inst.)

(1) A decree referring to the memorial lately presented by the Censor Pien Pao-ts'uan, on the murder case at Yü'hang in Chehkiang, respecting which, on the grounds that the conduct of the new trial held by the Literary Chancellor Hu Jui-lan had been unsatisfactory, he prayed that the case be placed in the hands of the Board of Punishments for investigation. This application, the Decree continues, was negated in view of the embarrassments necessarily entailed in the transfer of a judicial case to Peking, and with the apprehension that grave inconvenience must be suffered by the parties and witnesses in the journey to and fro. The Court of Censorate now, however, memorializes stating that Wang Shu-ping and others of the *literati* of Chehkiang have forwarded a joint address in which they pray that the case may be removed to Peking and placed in the hands of the Board of Punishments for trial. It is necessary, in the interests of justice, and in order to set the public mind at rest, that the statements alleged in this address be thoroughly investigated. Let all the proceedings in the case, together with the chief prisoners and the principal witnesses, be brought up and arraigned before the Board of Punishments for trial, in conformity with the requirements of equity. What is essential is that the truth be arrived at, without either unjust severity or culpable indulgence. Let an official be appointed by the Governor of Chehkiang to escort the parties to Peking with all due care. Let there not be the slightest approach to negligence or remissness, under penalty of Our displeasure.

Abstracts of Memorials. Ts'en Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, reports that T'wan Jui-mei 段瑞梅, commandant of the Ts'u-hiung sub-division, has been appointed as acting Brigadier-General of the T'eng-yüeh (Momein) command.

Jan. 11th.—(1) A decree. Let Kin Pang-king 靳邦慶 succeed to the